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# U.S. Says Soviet Copies Some Arms

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 18 — A report made public by the Defense Department today says that the Soviet Union, working from a checklist of Western technology, has been systematically stealing or obtaining thousands of documents and components each year to build up its own military industries.

The report is based in large part on internal Soviet documents assessing the success of a program for obtaining Western research and manufacturing secrets from contractors, universities and Government agencies.

It includes lists of top priority targets and examples of technology already used to advance the quality of Soviet weaponry.

## Made Public by Weinberger

Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger, in making public the 34-page report at a news conference, said:

"It is really, I think it is fair to say, a far more serious problem than we have previously realized. By their own estimate, more than 5,000 Soviet military research projects each year are benefiting significantly from Western-acquired technology."

An Assistant Secretary of Defense, Richard N. Perle, who answered questions about the study, denied that its release was timed to influence the climate surrounding the arms talks resuming Thursday in Geneva or the meeting between President Reagan and Mikhail S. Gorbachev, scheduled for Nov. 19 and 20.

He said the possible effect on the summit talks was discussed before the White House approved release of the Pentagon report.

"Any meeting like this ought to be based on reality, not on illusion," Mr. Perle said. "This is part of the reality."

## Some Items Stolen or Purchased

The report says that the items were stolen by spies, purchased by dummy trading companies, or in many cases obtained legally from Government agencies.

Mr. Perle said he believed the report was a strong argument for the Western countries to reduce the number of Russians they allow to visit. He said many of them were collecting military technology in the guise of trade representatives, scientists or journalists.

The report was compiled by a 22-member Technology Transfer Intelligence Committee headed by the Central Intelligence Agency and including representatives of other intelligence agencies and Government departments, such as the Customs Service and the Commerce Department, involved in technology transfer.

Intelligence experts said part of the information in the report was provided by a Soviet agent recruited by France who turned over hundreds of technical documents about the Soviet hunt for Western technology in the late 1970's and early 1980's.

The documents included annual reports of a secret Soviet body known as the Military-Industrial Commission, made up of the heads of military industries.

According to the United States Government report, this commission, which does not figure in published Soviet tables of organization, prepares lists of requests for equipment and documentation and spends an estimated \$1.4 billion a year to obtain them through intelligence agencies of the Warsaw Pact countries.

Stephen Meyer, head of the Soviet Strategic Studies program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said today that the document obtained by France were believed by experts to be authentic internal accounts of the commission's activities.

"If anything, you would think their bias would be to understate how much they got from the United States," he said. "These are the heads of the Soviet defense industry, and these reports amount to admitting they could not do their job without the Americans."

## A Fourth of Targets Secret

The report says that the Soviet Union obtains 6,000 to 10,000 pieces of equipment and 100,000 documents every year, about one fourth of them either secret or restricted by export controls.

Among previously undisclosed examples are these:

¶Soviet officials said the aviation and radar industries saved five years of development time and \$55 million by using pilfered documents concerning the McDonnell Douglas F-18 fighter.

¶In the late 1970's, the K.G.B., the Soviet intelligence agency, was asked, as a "most critical" priority, to obtain electronic components and programming devices for the computer memories used in cruise missiles. The report does not indicate the outcome. A Pentagon official said the material was obtained, but it is not known whether it was adapted for Soviet use.

¶From the mid-1970's to the early 1980's, the main source of aerospace material for the Soviet military program was public documents issued by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

## NASA Wing Design Copied

Mr. Perle said an unusual NASA cantilever wing design was copied by the Soviet Union on the An-72, a short-takeoff-and landing transport plane that first flew in late 1977.

Mr. Perle said that NASA, which was established in 1958 in part to promote peaceful international cooperation in space, "has an extremely liberal publication policy, to the point where NASA has published information that has led directly to improvements in Soviet weapons systems."

The report says that the Soviet acquisitions range from public documents to virtually entire manufacturing assembly lines. Soviet technology-hunters place top priority on microelectronics and computers, and anything related to antisubmarine warfare and space weapons, the report says.

Most of the integrated circuits used in Soviet high-tech weapons are copied from Western originals, the report says.

In the early 1980's, the report says, the Soviet Union obtained a Fairchild Instrument Corporation semiconductor memory tester and copied it to produce its own testing machine.

Stephen D. Bryen, a deputy to Mr. Perle in charge of trade and security, said the most vulnerable points in the Western supply system were military contractors who had arrangements with foreign concerns to co-produce or build weapons under license. Other sources include Government technical clearing houses, universities and scientific conferences, the report says.

The report portrays a two-pronged Soviet Government apparatus for gathering Western technology.

One arm, the Military-Industrial Commission, pursues documents and equipment that can be copied. Each year during the 1970's and early 1980's, the report says, the commission issued about 3,500 requests, with "roughly one-third satisfied each year."

The Ministry of Foreign Trade runs a separate program that relies heavily on international middlemen to obtain equipment, the report says.

Mr. Perle today said the United States' effort to control sensitive technology had impeded Soviet efforts, despite what he called "people whose primary interest is the promotion of trade." The remark appeared directed at the Commerce Department, which has long battled the Pentagon over controls.